

wherein the sealing lip has, on a side facing radially away from the machine element, at least one recess which only connects and allows flow between the area to be sealed off and a surrounding area if the sealing ring is curved forward in the direction of the surrounding area, said at least one recess extending in the sealing lip and having a depth in a radial direction between the side facing radially away from the machine element and a side facing the machining element.

10. (Amended) A sealing arrangement for forming a seal around a machine element, comprising:

a sealing ring including a sealing lip, the sealing lip including at least one recess on a side of the sealing lip facing radially away from the machine element, said at least one recess extending in the sealing lip and having a depth in a radial direction between the side facing radially away from the machine element and a side facing the machining element.

REMARKS

I. INTRODUCTION

Claims 1 to 17 are pending in the present application. In view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the presently pending claims are allowable, and reconsideration is respectfully requested.

II. REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1 to 6, 10 to 14, 16 and 17 UNDER 35 U.S.C. § 102(b)

Claims 1 to 6, 10 to 14, 16 and 17 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,427,205 ("Hoelzer et al."). It is respectfully submitted that Hoeltzer et al. do not anticipate claims 1 to 6, 10 to 14, 16 and 17, as amended herein, for the following reasons.

Claim 1, from which claims 2 to 9 ultimately depend, relates to a sealing arrangement. Claim 1 recites that the sealing arrangement includes a sealing ring having a sealing lip curved forward in the direction of an area to be sealed off.